

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SURABA 00118 170626Z

ACTION EA-12

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FM AMCONSUL SURABAYA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1201

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SURABAYA 0118

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SUBJECT: STUDENT ACTIVITIES IN SURABAYA DURING FIRST WEEK OF MPR

REF: SURABAYA 0106

1. INCIDENTS INVOLVING STUDENTS HAVE OCCURRED ALMOST EVERY DAY THIS WEEK IN SURABAYA. ON TUESDAY THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER AT KODAM VIII (BRAWIDJJA) ISSUED A STATEMENT REQUESTING PARENTS TO COUNSEL THEIR CHILDREN AGAINST JOINING DEMONSTRATIONS AND GIVING A FULL RUNDOWN ON RECENT INCIDENTS AROUND THE CITY. SOME SIXTEEN LOW-KEY DEMONSTRATIONS, POSTER HANGINGS, LEAFLET SCATTERINGS, AND STRIKES WERE LISTED. INCIDENTS WERE ALMOST EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN ACTIVITIES AT UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOLS (SMA'S) IV AND VI AND THREE CAMPUSES OF SURABAYA'S TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (ITS)--BALIWERTI, COKROAMINOTO, AND MANYAR. AN EXCEPTION WAS SATURDAY'S COORDINATED STRIKE AT THE PECINDILAN AND KETINTANG CAMPUSES OF SURABAYA TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE (IKIP). THE KODAM STATEMENT INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN NO MAJOR PHYSICAL CLASHES BETWEEN STUDENTS AND SOLDIERS.

OUR IMPRESSION, BASED ON PERIODIC DRIVES BY CONSULAR OFFICERS AROUND TOWN, IS THAT SECURITY FORCES MADE THEIR PRESENCE FELT BY GRADUALLY ENTERING SCHOOL CAMPUSES DURING THE COURSE OF

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SURABA 00118 170626Z

THE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES WITH MORE ARMED SOLDIERS AND MORE VISIBLE EQUIPMENT--PACKS, RIFLES, WALKIE-TALKIES, ETC.

2. AROUND NOON ON WEDNESDAY, A PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION TOOK PLACE AT A COMPLEX OF SMA'S (I, II, V, AND IX) ON JALAN WIJAYAKUSUMA, A BLOCK FROM CITY HALL. IN THE OPEN AREA IN FRONT OF SMA V, A GROUP OF STUDENTS FROM THESE SCHOOLS ERECTED POSTERS AND FLEW A BLACK

FLAG AT HALF MAST ON THE SCHOOL FLAG POLE. AFTER SECURITY FORCES ARRIVED, MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS ABUSED THEM WITH CURSES AND FOUL LANGUAGE, ACCORDING TO THE KODAM SPOKESMAN'S ACCOUNT. WHEN SOLDIERS ENTERED THE CAMPUS TO TAKE DOWN POSTERS AND THE FLAG, A FIGHT BROKE OUT, DURING WHICH 2 SOLDIERS AND 12 STUDENTS WERE INJURED. THE TOWN'S POLITICAL TEMPERATURE ROSE A FEW DEGREES WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON WHEN THE RUMOR SPREAD THAT ONE STUDENT HAD DIED IN THE MELEE. THE RUMOR LATER PROVED UNFOUNDED.

3. IN ITS STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, KODAM VIII HAS REPEATED THE LINE THAT OUTSIDE AGITATORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDENT DISTURBANCES. THE ARMY SPOKESMAN HAS SAID THAT G-30-S (COMMUNIST) REMNANTS ARE BEHIND THESE INCIDENTS, ADDING THAT THE SLOGANS AND UNWITTING PARTICIPATION BY YOUNG STUDENTS IS REMINISCENT OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE MAJOR CIVIL STRIFE THAT BROKE OUT IN LATE 1965. KODAM SUGGESTS THAT THE PERPETRATORS OF WEDNESDAY'S SMA CONFLICT WERE NOT STUDENTS AT ALL BUT OUTSIDERS WHO FLED WHEN THE TROOPS ARRIVED, LEAVING INNOCENT STUDENTS TO CONTEND WITH A SITUATION THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND. ON THE OTHER HAND, MANY HERE BELIEVE THAT SURABAYA'S STUDENT TROUBLES ARE ALL IN THE FAMILY. ONE OF THE STUDENTS MOST SEVERLY INJURED WEDNESDAY, THE ONE RUMORED DEAD, IS SAID TO BE THE SON OF AN ACTIVE DUTY ARMY COLONEL. WE ALSO HAVE HEARD FROM A LOCAL NEWSPAPER EDITOR THAT THE SON OF SURABAYA'S MAYOR, COLONEL SUPARNO, IS ONE OF THE MOST INCORRIGIBLE ACTIVISTS STILL CIRCULATING IN THE CITY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SURABA 00118 170626Z

4. THURSDAY AND FRIDAY MORNINGS THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND THE 6 SMA CAMPUSES APPEARED NORMAL, WITH NO SIGHTINGS OF ARMY TROOPS OR RIOT POLICE. SMA VI, NEXT TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE, POSTED AN ANNOUNCEMENT INSIDE THE GATE THURSDAY STATING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CLASSES IN THE AFTERNOON. MIDMORNING FRIDAY, ALL WINDOWS AND DOORS AT SMA VI WERE STILL CLOSED, WITH ONLY A FEW STUDENTS HANGING AROUND A THEATER AND ART COMPLEX NEARBY. ALL OTHER SMA'S WERE OPEN AND FUNCTIONING. UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES ARE ALSO QUIET AT THE END OF THE WEEK.

SHERRY

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